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APR 19 2007

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 1 and 5 for clarification, and refer to page 12, lines 31-33 and page 14, line 12 to page 15, line 1 in the specification for exemplary embodiments of and support for the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,703 to Nagaraj in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,452,344 to Larson; claims 3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaraj, Larson, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,424,849 to Yamashita et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,334,312 to Yoshida; and claims 4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaraj, Larson, Yamashita et al., Yoshida, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,185 to Huttunen. Applicants amend claims 1 and 5 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references, and respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner conceded that Nagaraj "does not teach ... extracting information that is according to an on-off-state of a switching element," and cited Larson as a new combining reference that allegedly suggests this claimed feature. Larson describes, as means to eliminate noise, using a pulse width modulation scheme along with a shift of a decision frequency and synchronization with line voltage zero crossings. And Nagaraj only describes using a reference voltage.

Thus, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Nagaraj and Larson

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“[a] method used in equalization processing, comprising the steps of:

receiving a reference signal from a transmission line, wherein said reference signal is sent from a send side and said reference signal has predetermined phase and amplitude in the send side;

extracting, from said reference signal using fluctuation of phase and amplitude of said reference signal, fluctuation of transmission line characteristics which fluctuate periodically according to an on-off state of a switching element in an apparatus that is connected to the transmission line; and

performing equalization processing while switching equalization characteristics in accordance with said fluctuation of transmission line characteristics,” as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, together with claim 2 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Nagaraj and Larson, separately and in combination, for at least the above-stated reasons. Claim 5 incorporates features that correspond to those of claim 1 cited above, and is, therefore, together with claims 6 and 9-10 dependent therefrom, patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons. The Examiner cited Yamashita et al., Yoshida, and Huttunen as combining references to specifically address the additional features recited in dependent claims 3-4 and 7-8, respectively. As such, the combination of these references would still have failed to cure the above-described deficiencies of Nagaraj, Miura et al., and Noro even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to do so. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-4 and 7-8 are patentable over the cited references for at least the above-stated reasons.

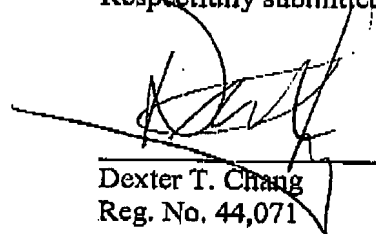
In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

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Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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